

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 IO-13 OPR-02 RSR-01 EA-11 /165 W
----- 085886

R 291400 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5424

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0878

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, NASA, MA

SUBJ: NASA TRACKING STATION IN MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE 0870

1. DURING CALL ON MALAGASY FONMIN RATSIRAKA 29 JUN ABOUT HIS VISIT TO US, HE REFERRED IN PASSING TO CONTINUING ATTACKS BY AKFM PARTY (PRO- SOVIET, BUT STRONGLY SUPPORTING RAMANANTSOA GOVT) ON PRESENCE NASA STATION IN MADAGASCAR. HE STATED HE THOUGHT THESE ATTACKS COULD BE EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH BY STATIONING " TWO OR THREE" MALAGASY OFFICIALS AT STATION. INDICATED HE WOULD PROBABLY BRING UP THIS IDEA DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. AS DEPT AND NASA WILL RECALL, RATSIRAKA RAISED THESE ATTACKS WITH ME DURING MY INITIAL TALK WITH HIM LAST OCT AND PUT FORTH SIMILAR PERSONAL SUGGESTION ABOUT STATIONING MALAGASY REPRESENTATIVE AT NASA STATION (TANANARIVE 1267, 25 OCT72). FOLLOWING EXCHANGES WITH WASH, I TOLD HIM WE QUITE PREPARED ACCEPT HIS SUGGESTION (TANANARIVE 1428, 28 NOV72).

3. SHOULD HE RAISE MATTER IN WASH, WE RECOMMEND CONTINUED FAVORABLE RESPONSE EVEN IF HE TALKS IN TERMS OF " TWO OR THREE" MALAGASY REPRESENTATIVES AT STATION INSTEAD OF HIS
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EARLIER SUGGESTION OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE.

4. WE TAKE THIS CONVERSATION AS FURTHER FAVORABLE INDICATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO REAL PROBLEM IN RENEWING NASA STATION AGREEMENT WITH GOMR ON ITS EXPIRATION AT END 1973 (TANANARIVE 0870, 29 JUN73).
MENDENHALL

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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